

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY

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SUNDAY.....SEPT. 22, 1897.

DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET.

FOR GOVERNOR: JAMES HOGUE TYLER, of Pulaski county.

FOR LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR: EDWARD ECHOLS, of Staunton.

FOR ATTORNEY-GENERAL: ANDREW JACKSON MONTAGUE, of Danville.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Norfolk and Petersburg and many other cities and towns of this country are just now much alarmed about their water supplies, the long continued drought having reduced most streams to their minimum. Here, the James river is very low—almost as low as it ever gets, but the clearness and sweetness of the water make up for the reduced quantity coming over the falls.

And that the water is pure and wholesome, we may safely conclude from the fact that our people, as a people, are enjoying fine health. There is more force in the country, where wells and springs furnish the water supply, than in Richmond, where "the noble James" blesses us with water power, mechanical and physiological.

Nor need we fear being put upon any very short allowance of water, Boshers' and Grant's dams enable us to avail ourselves of the entire volume of the river. Should the pumps driven by water-power be curtailed of their usual capacity, we have the Worthington steam-pump at hand to make up the deficiency. This pump was bought by the city in 1881—the year of the Yorktown Centennial, when a great drought prevailed throughout Virginia. We had not completed our new water-works then, and the city was in daily danger, since there was no water upon our hills to supply the fire engines in case of need. A great portion of the James' volume was then drawn from the river at the Three-Mile locks and carried down the canal to the Tredgare, the Gallego, the paper-mills, etc.

Colonel Carrington, who was then Mayor, becoming apprehensive as to the result of the "water famine" here, had a part of the canal's stream turned out of the canal into the river just west of Hollywood, with the view of filling the dam of the Old pump-house. The people approved his action, but it was without warrant of law, strictly speaking, and was long thereafter a subject of controversy. Nor did it add much to the water supply.

All through August, September, and October of that year the drought continued, and the streams got lower and lower and our supply scantier and scantier. At last, when we had almost reached the limit of patience and endurance, the steam pump was gotten into operation, and our water supply was at once improved.

The cost of running the steam pump is considerable, but there never ought to be any hesitation about using it when its services are required, as the health of our people ought ever to be the prime consideration.

The greatest objection that has been urged against the use of water-meters has been from those who fear that parsimonious persons will refuse to use enough water to cleanse their persons and premises properly. But the adoption of a minimum price for a minimum supply would remedy that. The time is nearing when Richmond will have to compel the general adoption of water-meters, or else increase her supply.

Whether the meter is to become popular depends very much upon the experiment with it now being made here upon a large scale. If water bills are decreased rather than increased, the meter will be popular; but not otherwise.

Our understanding is that where families have proper water fixtures in their houses, and where they have always been reasonably economical in the use of city water, the bills are lower than formerly. But where contrary conditions have prevailed the bills are larger. This, we believe, is a rule; but there are exceptions to it. We know of instances where the water-fixtures are in excellent condition, and where

great care and prudence have always been exercised in the use of water, and yet the charges under the meter system have been larger than they were formerly. However, we shall not pursue this subject farther now. We wish to congratulate Richmond upon being so much better off in the matter of a water supply than we were in 1881, or than many other cities are now.

If, happily for us, the popularity of water-meters should ensure their general adoption here, and thus relieve us of the necessity of putting up more pumps, we may then industriously address ourselves to the question of clarifying our city water. James-river water is just now clear and sparkling enough to suit anybody, but it is not usually so. Indeed, it is often much less so, and the trouble is that it takes weeks and weeks for it to clear itself by settling. But relieved of the question of quantity, we shall have more time to consider the question of quality (clearness), and we have the right to believe that the problem will not be one too difficult for solution, when undertaken by the combined resources of capital and science. Indeed, who knows but that in the "electrifying" of the James a storage dam may not have to be constructed, which may be used both for the purposes of power and for settling city water?

ROADS AND CONVICTS.

Why cannot the able-bodied convicts be profitably employed in the construction of roads? A general plan might be devised, with proper safeguards looking to the security as well as the health and comfort of the convicts, and the utilization of their labor in a manner which will not conflict with free labor, but will, on the contrary, relieve the people of a disagreeable burden. The subject deserves, and it is to be hoped, will receive the thoughtful attention of our lawmakers next winter.—The Lynchburg News.

The State has entered into contracts which call for about nine hundred men and all of the women prisoners. These contractors pay into the State Treasury about \$100,000 per annum.

Again, overcrowded as the penitentiary is, the prisoners are healthier and better cared for there than they have usually been when employed upon public works. The reasons, probably, are that after long confinement the men are not able to stand the hard, rough work required of them, and that the quarters in which they are huddled at night are no better than (if as good as) the prison cells.

A plan to meet with favor from the Legislature will have to be adjustable to the State's financial needs and reconcilable with existing contracts. We do not say that such a plan cannot be devised, but we are sure it will not be an easy task.

General Longstreet, who married a very young bride this week, exclaimed gleefully: "I am not old at all! You don't know what life is till you reach my age." As long as the grayest of the gray can say this, eternal youth is in his soul.—The Baltimore American.

Whether the General was too old or too young to get married it is now too late to discuss, but we must commend his good sense for always having an ear trumpet swung to his side, and for not putting it aside, even upon his wedding day. He is nearly deaf and he knows it, and he knows that the public knows it. So to save his friends from danger of splitting their throats when talking to him, he provides an ear trumpet. There are hundreds of men who are just as deaf as the General who are not so considerate of their friends as he is in this respect. As a rule, men who have had eyesight do not mind wearing glasses, but those who are deaf seem to be sensitive about admitting that deficiency, though to conceal it is impossible.

The distinguished leader of the Republican party in Virginia, Colonel Brady, has a letter in the Baltimore Sun of yesterday explaining that his course with respect to the revenue office removals here does not meet with the disapproval of Secretary Gage. Perhaps not; but that only shows that Gage is a good instrument to carry out the intended civil-service views of the Republican party. Yet we have some hope that the Civil-Service Commission and the President will take a different view from that held by Brady, Wilson, and Gage. If they do not, then the city will fully understand what it strongly suspects—that the friendship of the Republican party for the civil-service system is the same sort of friendship that the wolf has for the lamb.

Richmond is greatly disfigured by the number of telegraph and telephone poles and wires that are to be seen in our streets. In time these wires, or most of them, must come down. We are not disposed to press the matter now, but we shall keep it in mind and insist upon it when business conditions improve. The difference in appearance of a city where no such restrictions prevail and where they do prevail are very marked. Certainly no one can assert that Richmond has been beautified by the free use of wires here. These wires are undoubtedly useful, but it can hardly be said that they are ornamental.

The Richmond public will be rejoiced to learn that arrangements are being made which will lead to the adoption of a system of transfers between the two competing street-railway lines here. Richmond will then have as good a street-car system as any other city of our size in the country. Not only are fares low here, but the distances that one may ride for one fare are extraordinary. It is possible to ride from Forest Hill Park to Seven Pines, a distance of fourteen miles, for 5 cents. With good tracks, excellent cars, low fares, and transfers from one line to another, what more can our people ask?

Republicans ought to take notice that almost all the Democratic newspapers of this State are very anxious to see the Republicans nominate a ticket. Why is this?—The Spirit of the Valley.

It is because we want to have you meet us and discuss "honest election" methods.

September generally gives us about a week of very warm weather before it ushers in the autumn. We have had the warm September week for this year. Now for the fall season.

The argent attitude of the Bank of England is quite astounding to the public, but it only goes to show that there may be politics in bank affairs, as well as elsewhere.

The weather has been warm recently, but politics will be warmer, a little farther on.

"Hurrah for Hanna and honest elections!" will be the battle cry of Colonel Brady's party this fall.

SCHOOL-BOOK CONTRACTS.

There are already two or more southern histories upon the "eligible list" of books that may be adopted by local boards for use in the public schools of Virginia; but there ought to be a still wider range of selection.

The contract that Virginia has with the American Book Company and all other publishers whatsoever we would have her observe faithfully to the end. But these companies ought to pull down the bars and let our people have what they want. If they did not know it, it is to their interest to do so. Our people have made up their minds that they will have real history taught—not the so-called history that vaunts the victors and slurs the defeated side. Any history that neglects to state the fact, for instance, that Massachusetts more than once threatened to avail herself of the right of secession, suppresses the truth and creates a wrong impression upon the minds of the student.

There have been a score or more of southern histories written. Some of these are in use in Virginia schools, while others are not upon the "eligible list" and cannot be used. As to the merits of these several histories, there is much difference of opinion. Some people prefer one; others another. But really it seems to us that it would be well to open the field to all and let the fight go on and the fittest survive. Those who are entrusted with the education of youth ought to be the best judges of the merits of text-books, but even their judgment, which we much respect, would not be as reliable before trial as after trial of the books. It is only in that way that the public mind can be brought to an intelligent decision as to which history of all those offered as works acceptable to all southern students ought to be generally used in southern schools. No matter what committee, commission, or board may undertake to decide which is "the best southern history," there will always be found men to appeal from that decision. But from a popular conclusion reached after fair trial by teachers, parents, and pupils, there could be no successful appeal.

Of course, the cost of changing from one history to another will always be urged by some as a reason against any change, but we must trust to the intelligence and patriotism of our people to rise superior to any objection of this sort.

We have not the record of the facts before us as we write, but our recollection is that the contracting companies have not been illiberal in consenting to modifications of their contracts, having for their object the addition of new books to the list; but, however that may be, the companies would do well to yield to the general demand so that all southern histories may have a fair trial in our public schools. Of course, private schools have all the liberty that they want, but public schools may only use such books as are adopted by the State Board of Education. And the board contracts with the book companies for the books in question to the exclusion of other books of other publishers. Not all, but most of the books in use in the public schools of this State are published by the American Book Company, whose contracts have a good while to run before the State Board of Education is free to enter into new contracts. But our advice to the American Company, and all others concerned, is to waive any such rights that they may possess and let the State Board enlarge the history list as much as it pleases.

With all the histories to choose from, we may be sure that if there is really any one of them that meets all, or nearly all, of our wants, the consensus of opinion in educational circles will point it out. Therefore forward there will be no trouble about getting it taught, but until that end is reached we may have to try and try again, over and over, until we get the very book that we need.

GERMANY AND GREAT BRITAIN.

A contemporary remarks that much curiosity and more surprise are expressed at the apparent neglect of Emperor William of Germany to send a telegram to the Mad Mullah, congratulating him on his capture of the Khyber Pass. Of course, this bit of sarcasm was suggested by the recollection of Emperor William's congratulatory telegram to President Kruger, however, since the Transvaal telegram incident, Emperor William has come to think with Bismarck touching the matter of getting at odds with Great Britain. The old ex-Chancellor long ago remarked, in effect, that the friendship of Great Britain was worth more to Germany than would be the possession by Germany of the whole Upper Nile region, and recently he delivered himself in about the same spirit.

Bismarck still has a powerful following throughout the German empire, and his opinions on matters of statecraft still carry great weight. His last utterance in regard to the advisability of Germany's keeping on friendly terms with Great Britain was called forth by the French rejoicing over the Franco-Russian alliance. Emperor William is hot-headed and impulsive, and it may be, as his critics claim, that he talks too much. But he is not beyond the reach of sober second thought. Indeed, he is not beyond the reach of Bismarck's influence.

If Bismarck's view, as expressed some years ago, regarding the relations Germany should sustain towards Great Britain was sound, certainly it would seem that its soundness has been emphasized by recent Franco-Russian hobnobbing. While we do not believe that the Franco-Russian alliance involves anything like the significance as against Germany that the French seem to think it does, and while, indeed, Bismarck treated the alliance somewhat lightly, none the less, the wise course for Germany would be to take nothing for granted. Bismarck knows that whatever may be the express stipulations of the alliance, Russia will, when the opportune moment arrives, construe it just as may advantage her most. Young William also knows this fact, and no matter what his arbitrariness and his past quarrels with Bismarck, it is hardly probable that he will ignore it.

"We are for Hanna and honest elections."

What a fine inscription that would make for the banners of those who are going to fight the Democratic party of Virginia this fall.

We haven't seen it anywhere stated that the Mad Mullah is related at all to Whittier's Maud.

The price of coal is going up—to meet the winter that is coming down upon us.

The general verdict of the newspapers is that Sheriff Martin acted hastily in

ordering his deputies to fire upon the striking miners. No doubt he did. Quite certainly, if he had his time to go over again he would be more prudent. All of his life he will rue the day that he gave the order. But the strikers were not blameless. They had been ordered to disperse and had refused to do so; moreover, they had menaced the Sheriff, but to what extent is a matter of controversy.

The Governor of Pennsylvania has now sent a formidable force of troops to Hazleton, inasmuch as threats have been made against the life of the Sheriff. It is a pity that they were not sent there sooner. And yet the military, as well as sheriffs' deputies, are sometimes too quick on the trigger!

Mrs. Antonio de Navarro, who was before her marriage Mary Anderson, denies the report that she is to become a public singer. She says she has promised to sing one evening in a little English village for a charitable cause, and that this is the sole foundation for the rumor that she was about to make a debut on the concert platform. She doesn't deny, however, that she has been assiduously cultivating her singing powers for several years, and that her voice is a rich contralto.

So silver has taken a notion to go up, and has gone up, too. What have the anti-Bryantians to say to this?

Now don't let's complain of the coolness of the approaching weather wave.

Just Think of It.

In this funny old world

With rare guerdons impearled,

For which man has a natural thirst;

There is many a thought

With such recompense fraught,

To the fellow who thinks of it first

Deeply hidden away

Since the earth's natal day,

In the nebulous somewhere immersed;

There are germs that will bloom

With a bank-account boom

To whoever discovers them first.

So just wipe off the dust

From your cerebral crust,

Make your thinker with blossoms to burst;

And you'll mine out a think

That will go on with chink

If you hustle and dig it out first.

On Tap.

"That taste is sure depraved," said Dick—

His sparkling vichy eyeing—

Which takes to beer when beverage clear

As this invites his trying.

"Pshaw!" answered Fred, as with a smirkl

His friend he contemplated;

"The taste that takes such moistures,

Makes

Me say it's vichy-ated."

The Perverse Collar-Button.

Husband: Didn't you can some preserves yesterday?

Wife: To be sure; but why do you ask?

Husband: I want to open them and examine the contents.

Wife: And for what, pray?

Husband: I want to look for a collar-button that got away from me yesterday.

Wife: How ridiculous! That would be the last place on earth to look for a collar-button.

Husband: Yes, and that's the very place a collar-button always gets to.

Easy Terms.

Lessee: Now that I have leased this house, I want to know, of course, how you want the rent paid?

Landlord: Well, suppose we say quarterly.

Lessee: That will suit me to a dot; I was thinking I wouldn't be able to pay you more than a quarter at a time.

Fame by Accident.

Scribbler: That's a funny thing. I've just finished a poem, and now that I read it over, I discover that there isn't any sense in it.

Caustic: By Jove, you're in luck; you've struck the highway to fame.

Very Complacent.

Employer: How comes it that you didn't fill out the day yesterday?

Journeyman: Why, when you went away you told me to "make short work of it," and so I knocked off at 2 o'clock.

Teller's speeches don't come under the head of telegraphy exactly, but they are sometimes Teller-graphic, all the same.

Have you ever noticed that the morning after a spree is generally apt to make a straw hat felt?

When a bee strikes a stinging attitude the victim rarely considers it a beetle-tude.

Dudes are never quarantined for colic symptoms.

A forest gem—the purr of the brook.

Deceived.

(Puck.)

Patient: Vet? Two dollars for taking out dem teeth?

Dentist: Two dollars, if you take gas.

Patient: Young man I thought you was a dentist. I didn't know you was a gas company.

A Chaucer.

(For the Dispatch.)

Uplifted high, my FIRST

Stood in the battle's van,

And SECOND towards the coming foe

Pressed every gallant man.

Though peace has long resumed its sway,

The memory of that fateful day,

The sons of heroes still prolong

In prose and verse in speech and song,

And men still drain with jovial soul

Many a WHOLE and flowing bowl.

And round the board of many a host

The heroes of that day still toast.

In his WHOLE my FIRST and SECOND

Won a delectable name,

And they fix high their mark who

THIRD

To emulate his fame.

BABY HUMORS

Instant relief for skin-tormented babies and rest for tired mothers in a warm bath with CUTICURA SOAP, and a single application of CUTICURA (ointment), the great skin cure for itching, burning, bleeding, scaly, and pimply humors of the skin, scalp, and blood.

Wanted, CAPABLE MAN, WITH \$1000 to carry stock of goods and manage the office of the B. & O. R. Co., at New York, for 12 months and all expenses; also, extra percentage. Permanent position with good future. Apply to JAMES BARTON, 125 Franklin street, Chicago, or 12-11

Read throughout the world. POTTER DRUG AND CHEMICAL CO. Sole Importers, New York, N. Y. "How to Cure Every Baby Humors," mailed free.

BABY BLEMISHES CUTICURA SOAP.

LETTER FROM SENATOR WICKHAM

Constitutional Amendments and Reductions in Appropriations.

Richmond, Va., September 7, 1897.

Editor Free Lance, Fredericksburg, Va.:

My Dear Sir,—Acknowledging receipt of your esteemed favor of the 4th instant, I beg to say that it would give me pleasure to avail myself of your kind offer to express my views as to what legislative action should be taken next winter upon the questions which are now interesting the people, the more so because of the fact that your paper has a wide circulation and influence among a large number of my constituents.

I have been for a number of years past in the General Assembly, and a member of the Finance Committee, before which committee would naturally come some of the questions to which you allude, and especially those relating to the State revenue. I know that in the past the committee has labored earnestly in the endeavor to devise new subjects for taxation, and, as far as possible, in keeping down expenses. I am free to say that the problem is as difficult a one as confronts the representatives of the people when they assemble. If you undertake to curtail expenditures you have to stem a perfect torrent, for every one who is affected has friends, and those friends have friends, and many, if not most of them, come in person to see about it. If you undertake to raise taxes, you have to contend with a perfect torrent, for every one who is affected has friends, and those friends have friends, and many, if not most of them, come in person to see about it.

But the issue has got to be met squarely, and I hope we will be able to reach, possibly, a class of property which now escapes taxation to certain extent, and at the same time, by careful revision of our appropriation bills, to save something here and there, so that when the balance is struck we will be safely inside the danger line.

Just what constitutional amendments should be submitted, and just what reductions should be made in the appropriations, I am not prepared to say. I can do so to give the most patient, thoughtful, and steady study to the proposition as it is advanced, that I am capable of doing, and then come to that determination which seems to me most likely to accomplish what is desired, and based on the honest conviction like grim death. To paraphrase the language of a very distinguished statesman of times past in Virginia, "I know that by such an individual affected, but I shall not forget that I have my country to serve."

Very faithfully yours,

H. T. WICKHAM.

The Endeavor to Throttle Lury and Walker.

(Rockingham Register.)

It is perhaps officious, but the Register risks the impropriety and enters the ring of Republican confusion and strife.

The great against the sacrifice of the Lamb and his people, so untimely and cruelly made at Lynchburg by the officers, holders, seekers, and promoters a week or so ago.

As we understand it, the people—the rank and file in the Republican, as in the Democratic ranks—are allowed to imagine at least that they are the power, and that the various committees of the party are merely the instruments appointed by them to carry into effect their wishes. Now the Republicans have at least a respectable status as a party in Virginia. They have organized in counties, oftentimes controlled counties, met in general conventions, and nominated their candidates for State offices; carried their flag everywhere from sea to sea to maintain credit in the belief—erroneous, to be sure—that they were a party of progress as well as of conservative influence.

The doctrine of the people as the rock-bottom of authority has been so emphatically asserted that "We are the people!" has become the shibboleth of their strange, wayward, and powerful organization. The blow made at the people by the office-holders, seekers, and disposers at Lynchburg, when they arbitrarily announced that there would be no nominations by the party for State offices, naturally shocked the sensibilities of such patriotic statesmen as General James A. Walker, Captain Warren S. Lantry, and others who entered the Republican party with a desire for office, but only for the good of their country.

Messrs. Brady, Allan, and Waddill are not the men to dictate to such patriots as are named above. If this wrong is allowed to be perpetrated, the end of the Republican party in Virginia may be dated as of the year 1897, when political brokers were permitted to say to the Republican people that they shall not have their beliefs and vindicate their convictions by the aid of the party and supporting their own candidates for high State offices.

If the commander of the Stonewall Brigade is driven by tyranny from his party, there is still place left for him in the Democratic ranks, and the kinsman of Stonewall Jackson, eloquent, enthusiastic, chivalrous, may be extended the same assurance. Lury, we believe, will be beaten if nominated by his people. So, if the case of the party is as Brady and he is mistaken when he prophesies Republican success. He might ride through ten counties, and ten times ten counties, on a sorrel mare of Kentucky, or any other strain of blood, and still at a junction of voters of Virginia could never be induced to follow blooded mare or plumed knight